We claim:

1. A method of making a reclosable plastic bag comprising:

feeding a zipper tape having at least one splotched portion thereof across a sensor;

detecting said splotched portion to obtain a signal; and

actuating a cutter for cutting said zipper tape in response to said signal to create a selected portion of the zipper tape.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said step of detecting comprises determining a thickness of said splotched portion.

3. The method of claim 2 in which said step of determining comprises comparing said thickness to a reference predetermined thickness.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising splotching said zipper tape multiple times to create a series of splotches along the length of the zipper tape.

5. The method of claims 1, 2 or 4 further comprising sealing said selected portion of the zipper tape to a web.

6. An method for sealing a portion of a zipper tape to a web, the method comprising:

providing an elevator having a platform for receiving the portion of zipper tape;

depositing the portion of zipper tape onto the platform;

positioning a section of the web above the platform;

positioning a sealing head over the web section for heating the web section; and

elevating the platform towards the web section until the portion of zipper tape comes into contact with the web section, thereby forming a seal between at least a portion of the portion of the zipper tape and the web section.

7. The method of claim 6 wherein said sealing head is in contact with the web section when the portion of zipper tape comes into contact with the web section.

8. The method of claim 6 further comprising the step of perforating the web section.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein the web section is perforated by a knife positioned above the web section.

10. The method of claim 8 wherein the web section is perforated prior to the portion of zipper tape being sealed to the web section.

11. The method of claim 6 wherein the seal is substantially airtight.

12. The method of claim 6 wherein the seal is substantially watertight.

13. The method of claim 6 wherein the portion of zipper tape is created by feeding a zipper tape having at least one splotched portion thereof across a sensor, detecting said splotched portion to obtain a signal, and cutting said zipper tape in response to said signal to create the portion of zipper tape.

14. The method of claim 6 wherein the method is repeated to seal a plurality of zipper tapes to the web and further comprising the step of winding the resulting web onto a winder.

15. An apparatus for sealing a portion of a zipper tape to a web section, the apparatus comprising:

an elevator having a platform for receiving the portion of zipper tape;

means for depositing the portion of zipper tape onto the platform;

means for positioning the web section above the platform; and

a sealing head positioned over the web section for heating the web section, wherein the platform can be elevated towards the web section until the portion of zipper tape comes into

contact with the web section to form a seal between at least a portion of the portion of the zipper tape and the web section.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the sealing head is in contact with the web section when the portion of zipper tape comes into contact with the web section.

17. The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising a cutter for perforating the web section.

18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the cutter comprises a knife positioned above the web section.

19. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the seal is substantially airtight.

20. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the seal is substantially watertight.

21. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the zipper tape has at least one splotched portion and further comprising a sensor for detecting the splotched portion to obtain a signal, and a cutter for cutting said zipper tape in response to said signal to create the portion of zipper tape.